Hospitals in Delhi, to assess the steps taken up by Hospitals for management of Bio-Medical Waste from 28th May to 18th June, 1997, and again from 16th July to 24th October, 1997. The status of installation of Incinerators and Infection Control have been reported upon in respect of the City Hospitals in the public and private sector. The Reports are made available for follow up action to the Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

अजमेर के निकट रेलवे स्टेशनों का विकास

*254. **श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावत:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार अजमेर के मुख्य रेलवे स्टेशन पर यात्रियों को अत्यधिक भीड़ से राहत दिलाने के लिए नगरीय क्षेत्र में 'मदार' 'तबीजी' 'दौराई' और 'आदर्श नगर' रेलवे स्टेशनों का विकास कर के वहां पर रेल यात्रियों के लिए रेलगाड़ियां रुकवाने की व्यवस्था करने का विचार रखती है; और

(ख) क्या सरकार अजमेर में मेयो कॉलेज के सामने और 'तोपदड़ा' रेलवे फाटक पर रेलवे अन्डर पैसेज बनाने का विचार रखती है, यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

रेल मंत्री (श्री नीतीश कुमार): (क) अजमेर के आस-पास सेटेलाइट स्टेशन विकसित करने का इस समय कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है क्योंकि अजमेर में यात्रियों को सम्हालने के लिए सुविधाएं पर्याप्त हैं। इसके अलावा, मदार, तबीजी, दौराई और आदर्श नगर स्टेशनों पर गाड़ियों के ठहराव की भी इस समय कोई योजना नहीं है।

(ख) जी हां! मेयो कालेज के सामने लागत में हिस्सेदारी के आधार पर "भूमिगत मार्ग" की व्यवस्था का प्रस्ताव किया गया था, किंतु राज्य सरकार ने अभी तक प्रारंभिक पूर्वापेक्षाओं को पूरा नहीं किया है। तोपदड़ा रेलवे क्रासिंग पर भी "भूमिगत मार्ग" का प्रस्ताव किया गया था परन्तु लोक निर्माण विभाग, राजस्थान द्वारा व्यावहारिक न पाए जाने के कारण, इसे छोड़ देना पड़ा था।

Reduction in illiteracy

*255 SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that today 40% of our people are illiterate;

(b) whether there is any target to reduce illiteracy per annum; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) According to the last census held in 1991, the illiteracy rate in the country is 47.79%.

(b) and (c) Annual targets are not fixed to reduce illiteracy. National Literacy Mission aims at making persons in the age group 15—35 years literate in a time bound manner by the turn of the century.

Establishment of Railheads in U.P.

*256 SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':

Will the Minster of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)whether it is a fact that a proposal to establish railheads (rake points) in certain districts of Uttar Pradesh is pending;

(b) if so, the status thereof; and

(c) whether the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers have also taken up this matter with the Railways?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir, Developing rake handling points is an ongoing process. They are developed depending upon operational and traffic requirements and availability of supporting infrastructure like road approach, land etc.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. A letter from Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers enclosing copy

of a letter from Secretary, Agriculture, U.P. requesting provision of rake handling points at Jarwal Road (Bahraich district), Velthra Road (Ballia district), Bhadohi (Bhadohi district) and Roberts Ganj (Sonebhadra district) was received. A reply to this letter was sent stating that provision of rake handling facilities was not feasible at these points.

Deaths due to Air Pollution

*257. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether air pollution claims over 50,000 lives annually in 36 Indian cities;

(b) the number of deaths in Hyderabad, Kanpur and Delhi during last three years; and

(c) the action taken to contain air pollution in big cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) An article published by the Centre for Science & Environment (CSE), a non-governmental organisation, estimated that nearly 52,000 premature deaths in 36 Indian cities have occurred in 1995 due to air pollution. The estimation, however, is not based on actual figures and there is no conclusive scientific evidence to confirm these figures.

(b) No mortality data attributable to air pollution in Hyderabad, Kanpur and Delhi during last three years is available.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to reduce air pollution include the following:

(1) The Government has formulataed a comprehensive Policy Statement for Abatement of Pollution which envisages integration of environmental and economic aspects of development planning, lays stress on preventive aspects of pollution abatement and promotion of technological inputs to reduce industrial pollution;

(2) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of pollution control equipment and also for the shifting of industries from congested areas.

(3) Low lead petrol had been introduced in the four metro cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai w.e.f. June 1994. Subsequently, unleaded petrol was introduced in the above mentioned 4 cities with effect from 1.4.1995;

(4) The Government is implementing a major plan of action for introduction of unleaded petrol and catalytic converter fitted vehicles and introduction of low sulphur diesel for cleaner diesel vehicles in a phased manner. Fuel quality standards for petrol and diesel have been notified.

(5) A major programmed for introduction of unleaded petrol and catalytic converter fitted vehicles is under implementation. The first phase covering the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai, came into effect on 1.4.95

(6) Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 and are being enforced by the Departments of Transport of the various States.

(7) For control of pollution from vehicles, emision norms for both petrol and diesel driven vehicles at the manufacturing stage were introduced for the first time in 1990 and made tighter in 1996. More stringent emission norms have also been notified and will come into effect from 1.4.2000.